

4 May 1960

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Following developments have taken place since I last briefed on the Dominican situation:

- I. Trujillo has embarked on strong anti-church program, placing individual bishops under heavy press attack and cancelling government contract with Jesuit teaching order.
 - A. All segments of church becoming more militant in opposing Trujillo.

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- II. On 27 April Trujillo proposed following constitutional reforms:
 - Death penalty for subversives, lifting ban on Communists and Jehovah's Witnesses, and electoral reforms shortening presidential and legislative terms from five to four years and providing for municipal elections every two years.
 - A. US Embassy regards his proposals as ironical gestures deliberately flaunting efforts by church and moderates in Dominican Republic and elsewhere in hemisphere to bring about transition to more moderate government.
 - B. In face of widespread torture and assassination, anti-Trujillo dissidents probably regard instituting of death penalty as joke.

DOS REVIEW COMPLETED

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